(c) The Government is promoting development of the renewable energy sector through a mix of fiscal and financial incentives that include capital/interest subsidy, accelarated depreciation, nil/concessional excise and customs duties. Further benefit under Section 80-1A of Income Tax Act 1961 is available to undertakings setup for the generation or generation and distribution of Renewable power in India. This apart, preferential tariff for grid interactive renewable power is being given in most potential States.

Royalty on mineral exploration

*385. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is proposing any measures to review the royalty issue pertaining to mineral exploration in the country;

(b) if so, whether the said review would provide additional revenues, to that of the present, to the States where the exploration/mining is taking place;

(c) if so, the details of the new methodology that would be adopted to calculate teh royalty payable to the States; and

(d) how much additional revenue is expected to accrue to Andhra Pradesh during 2008-09?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) to (d) As per Section 9 of the MMDR Act, 1957 a lessee of mining lease has to pay royalty in respect of any mineral removed by him, at the rate specified in the Second Schedule to the said Act in respect of that mineral. In order to revise the rates of royalty as per this provision a Study Group was set-up that submitted its recommendations to the Government which is under consideration of the Government. The same revised rates of royalty will be applicable to Andhra Pradesh also as in case of other States.

Sexual abuse at work place

†*389. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been an increase in the incidents of sexual abuse at the work places during the recent past;

(b) if so, whether any step has been taken by Government the check such incidents; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) As per information received from National Crime Records Bureau, a total of 10001, 9984 and 9966 cases of sexual harassment (Section 509 IPC) (at work places and elsewhere) where registered in the country during 2004-2006, there by showing a declining trend.

(b) and (c) In order to minimise the incidence of sexual harassment of women, the Government has requested all the Central Ministries/Departments, Chief Secretaries of all the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations, Universities/Institutions, Central Board of Secondary Education. All India Council of Technical Education to constitute complaints committees and to ensure that the guidelines laid down by the Supreme Court in the Vishaka case for prevention of sexual harassment at workplace are implemented.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.